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Zur Frage einer Alkoholkonsumstatistik. Von ALFRED KUBATZ.
(München: Ernst Reinhardt, 1907. 2 m.)

The first few pages of this monograph are given to a discussion of the reasons which lead people to the drinking of intoxicants. Such persons are divided into two classes. Some drink because their food is insufficient and the feeling of hunger is in this way somewhat appeased. Others drink on account of the pleasure which they obtain from it. It may be that from lack of intellectual training or the money required for more expensive entertainment this seems the only pleasure open to them. Some, as a result of bad living conditions at home, are driven to the saloon, where they spend money on intoxicants. To the author the principal question is not how much a people drink, but to which of these two types does this drinking conform.

Therefore the figures for the per capita consumption of alcohol mean little unless, at the same time, some picture of the living conditions of the people is given. This can be shown only by personal budgets. These must contain not only the amount of alcohol consumed, but enough additional information to make certain that the physiological requirements of nutrition are fully met. Then, too, the number and location of the rooms occupied by the family must be recorded that it may be possible to determine whether there is decent housing without overcrowding.

The literature of budgets is then reviewed with the conclusion that they are not fitted to the purposes of such an investigation. Fifty are, however, selected from *Ouvriers des deux Mondes*. These fifty are taken from France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, England, and Germany, and cover the period from 1851 to date. They are divided into three groups, and are useful merely as samples but prove nothing.

The author proposes a schedule which he thinks will give some accurate information upon the drinking habits of workmen. This will contain the age and occupation of the head of the household; the total family income; the length of the husband's working day; the age and nature of the employment of the wife; her employment before marriage; the number and age of the children; the employment of the children; the location, rent and number of rooms in the dwelling; the other persons dependent upon the

family for support; whether city laborers are employed in agriculture. In addition it is required that the amount of wine, beer or brandy consumed daily either at home, in the workshop or the saloon should be noted separately. These budgets are to be kept for a week. Employers, labor unions and brewers are all to help to make these budgets accurate.

It is desirable that we know more about the drinking among workers, but it is doubtful if this plan would insure accuracy. Those who drink to excess are not likely to remember the number of glasses they took at the public house. Many will intentionally fail to record a part of their consumption, while the consumption of others will doubtless decrease as soon as a record is kept. This is desirable, but will not lend accuracy to these budgets. It is not easy to obtain true returns of expenditure which it is difficult to justify. Those who spend the most on intoxicants are the least likely to keep accurate accounts of their expenditure. We fear that some method other than the one proposed must be devised.

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Jahrbuch der Statistik. Eine internationale Übersicht der statistischen Verwaltung und Wissenschaft. Herausgegeben von H. PLATZER, Direktor des statistischen Bureaus für Elsass-Lothringen. Erster Jahrgang, 1909. (Strassburg: Verlag von Karl J. Trübner. Pp. 218. 5 m.)

The first half of this handbook is devoted to the organization of the statistical bureaus of thirty-six countries. These are arranged in alphabetical order, making it easy to discover the information desired.

Then follows a list of the places of meeting of the various statistical and scientific societies and congresses, together with a list of the members of the International Statistical Institute. Thirty pages are given to a list of the college and university professors who teach statistics or economics.

A list of the leading statistical and economic journals follows, together with a compilation of some of the best books on statistics in different languages. An alphabetical index of the names men-